software implementation that is also specified for deployment to the client, and if so, setting the selected software implementation for deployment and deselecting the at least one other software implementation.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein setting the selected software implementation for deployment comprises setting the selected software implementation for install.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein setting the selected software implementation for install comprises including the software implementation in a list of software implementations to install.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising installing the selected software implementation.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising advertising the selected software implementation as available to the user for execution on a computer system prior to actual installation of the software implementation on the computer system.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein deselecting comprises setting the at least one other software implementation for uninstall.

7.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising uninstalling the at least one other software implementation.

8.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein deselecting comprises removing the at least one other software implementation from the set of software implementations to deploy.

9.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations is maintained in a class store of the network.

11.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations is maintained in property values for the software implementations.

12.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations includes a property value indicative of whether to replace or overlay another software implementation.

13.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a user, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected software implementation automatically occurs as part of a user logon.

3

14.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a user, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected software implementation occurs in response to a user request.

15.   (Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a machine, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected software implementation automatically occurs when the machine connects to the network.

16.   (Amended)   A method for implementing a lifecycle for software implementations deployed in a network, comprising, maintaining policy information at a network location including software implementations to deploy to groups of clients and precedence relationships between the software implementations, receiving at least one request to deploy a plurality of software implementations to a client of a particular group, locating the policy information corresponding to the group, and determining from the policy information which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client and which software implementation or implementations to not apply to the client based on the precedence relationships.

17.   (Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises setting a first software implementation for install when the first software implementation has precedence over a second software implementation.

4

18.   (Amended)   The method of claim 17 further comprising installing the first software implementation.

20.   (Amended)   The method of claim 18 wherein the client is a user, and wherein installing the first software implementation is optional for that user.

21.   (Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises removing a first software implementation from a list of software implementations to install when a second software implementation has precedence over the first software implementation.

22.   (Amended)   The method of claim 21 further comprising installing the second software implementation, wherein installing the second software implementation overlays the first software implementation.

23.   (Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises setting a first software implementation for uninstall when a second software implementation has precedence over the second software implementation.

24.   (Amended)   The method of claim 23 further comprising uninstalling the first software implementation and installing the second software implementation.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients comprises specifying a pilot group of clients that is small relative to a total number of clients of the network.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients comprises specifying a rollout group of clients that is relatively larger than the pilot group and smaller than the total number of clients of the network.

Please add claims 28-43 as follows:

28. (Added) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

29. (Added) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 16.

30. (Added) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

maintaining first data specifying that a first software implementation is desired to be deployed to a client;

maintaining second data specifying that a second software implementation is desired to be deployed to the client;

6

maintaining precedence information specifying a precedence relationship between the

first software implementation and the second software implementation; and

accessing the first data, second data and precedence information to deploy the first

software implementation to the client and not deploy the second software implementation to the

client, based on the precedence information.

31.   (Added)   The method of claim 30 wherein the first software implementation

is deployed to the client by installing the first software implementation on a computer system

associated with the client.

32.   (Added)   The method of claim 30 wherein the first software implementation

is deployed to the client by including the software implementation in a list of software

implementations to install on a computer system associated with the client.

33.   (Added)   The method of claim 30 wherein the first software implementation

is deployed to the client by advertising the selected software implementation as available to the

user for execution on a computer system prior to actual installation of the software

implementation on the computer system.

34.   (Added)   The method of claim 30 further comprising uninstalling the second

software implementation.

35. (Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising installing the first software implementation and uninstalling the second software implementation.

36. (Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising overlaying the second software implementation while installing the first software implementation.

37. (Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data, second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a user logon.

38. (Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data, second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a user request.

39. (Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data, second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a machine connecting to a network.

40. (Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising specifying the precedence information for a group of clients.

41. (Added) The method of claim 40 wherein specifying the precedence information comprises selecting as the group of clients a pilot group that is small relative to a total number of clients of a network.